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(21) International Application Number: <b>PCT/EP97/04924</b> (22) International Filing Date: <b>4 September 1997 (04.09.97)</b>  (30) Priority Data: 60/026,652      24 September 1996 (24.09.96)      US 60/026,650      24 September 1996 (24.09.96)      US  (71) Applicant (for AU BB CA GB GH IE IL KE LC LK LS MN MW NZ SD SG SL SZ TT UG ZW only): <b>UNILEVER PLC</b> [GB/GB]; Unilever House, Blackfriars, London EC4P 4BQ (GB).  (71) Applicant (for all designated States except AU BB CA GB GH IE IL KE LC LK LS MN MW NZ SD SG SL SZ TT UG ZW): <b>UNILEVER N.V.</b> [NL/NL]; Weena 455, NL-3013 AL Rotterdam (NL).  (72) Inventors: <b>PUVVADA, Sudhakar</b> ; Apartment 5A, 130 Orient Way, Rutherford, NJ 07070 (US). <b>KOLODZIEJ, Richard</b> ; Apartment 405, 102, rue de Genève, F-74240 Gaillard (FR). <b>SHANA'A, May</b> ; 200 Old Palisade Road, Fort Lee, NJ 07024 (US).  (74) Agent: <b>MOLE, Peter, Geoffrey</b> ; Unilever PLC, Patent Division, Colworth House, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1LQ (GB).		(31) Designated States: <b>AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW</b> , ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: **LIQUID COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING STABILITY ENHANCING SURFACTANTS AND A METHOD OF ENHANCING LOW TEMPERATURE STABILITY THEREOF**

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to lamellar structured liquid cleansing compositions comprising 5 % to 50 % of a surfactant system comprising (a) an anionic or mixture of anionics and (b) an amphoteric and/or zwitterionic surfactant in mixture, wherein alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate comprises 25 % to 90 % of component (b). A method of enhancing low temperature stability of such lamellar structured liquid cleansing compositions by the selection of an alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate in an amount of 25 % to 90 % of the component (b) is provided. Excellent low temperature stability is achieved.

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CLAIMS

1. A lamellar structured liquid cleansing composition comprising 5% to 50% of a surfactant system comprising:  
5 (a) anionic or mixture of anionic surfactants; and  
(b) an amphoteric and/or zwitterionic surfactant or mixture thereof;  
wherein alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate comprises 25% to 90% of component (b).  
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2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate comprises 30 to 90% of component (b).
- 15 3. A composition according to claim 2, wherein alkalimetal amphoacetate comprises 40% to 90% of component (b).
- 20 4. A composition according to claim 1, wherein anionic is selected from the group consisting of alkyl sulfates, acyl isethionates and mixtures thereof.
- 25 5. A composition according to claim 1, wherein component (b) comprises 0.1% to 25% betaine.
6. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition additionally comprises 0% to 10% of nonionic surfactant.
- 30 7. A method of enhancing low temperature stability of a lamellar structured liquid cleansing composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein said method comprises selecting the amphoteric and/or zwitterionic surfactant component (b) such that alkalimetal alkyl amphoacetate comprises 25% to  
35 90% of component (b).